

Global Positioning System (commonly known as “GPS”);

Whereas the Maritime Safety Office of the NGA, which traces its lineage to 1869, collects, analyzes, and writes the Notices to Mariners that keep government, civilian, and international mariners informed about vital safety and navigational issues;

Whereas the NGA also supports commercial vessels worldwide with navigational products and warning messages;

Whereas, in addition to updating worldwide digital nautical charts that ensure safety of navigation to a broad base of users, the NGA has expanded to provide safety of navigation information to the aeronautical community;

Whereas, in recent years, the NGA has increased its—

(1) worldwide, industry-leading aeronautical safety library to more than 10,000 flight procedures made available to the Department of Defense; and

(2) vertical obstructions database from 4,000,000 features to more than 24,000,000 features;

Whereas the NGA has converted from paper maps to downloadable digital maps, reducing the amount of gear that pilots need to carry while ensuring that those pilots always have the latest information;

Whereas the NGA continues to be a constant source of innovation, aiding the efforts of the Department of Defense in counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations by using new—

(1) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sensors and technologies; and

(2) analytic methods, including full-motion video, hyperspectral imagery, overhead persistent infrared, light detection and ranging, and activity-based intelligence;

Whereas the NGA continues to support warfighters and intelligence operators with dedicated efforts in global counterterrorism, counterproliferation, mission readiness, safety of navigation, and future weapons development;

Whereas, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the men and women of the NGA have worked diligently to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terrorism by providing GEOINT support to United States and coalition forces in support of the Global War on Terror, including Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa, Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the NGA is commendably pursuing new methods of intelligence collection and analysis to inform, complement, and add to the NGA's support of warfighter requirements by—

(1) embracing innovative cost-sharing and risk-sharing constructs with the commercial electro-optical satellite industry; and

(2) looking to emerging commercial technology providers, including small satellite companies, that hold the promise of rapid technological innovation and potentially significant future cost savings to the taxpayers of the United States; and

Whereas the NGA has been awarded 3 Joint Meritorious Unit Awards reflecting the distinctive accomplishments of the personnel assigned to the NGA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the men and women of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(2) honors the professional men and women, past and present, of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for their selfless service and dedication to the United States; and

(3) expresses gratitude to all the men and women of the National Geospatial-Intel-

ligence Agency for their past and continued efforts to provide timely, relevant, and accurate geospatial intelligence support to deliver overwhelming advantages to warfighters, defense planners, and national security policymakers in the defense and security of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 608—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2016, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 608

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 43 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 2,100,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,839,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2014—

(1) commercial fish landings generated \$5,500,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers—

(A) took more than 68,000,000 fishing trips; and

(B) spent \$32,000,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 25 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 609—HONORING THE MEMORIES AND HEROIC ACTIONS OF THOSE KILLED, INJURED, AND AFFECTED BY THE FATAL BUS CRASH IN LAPLACE, LOUISIANA, ON AUGUST 28, 2016

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 609

Whereas, on August 28, 2016, St. John the Baptist Parish firefighters and Louisiana State troopers were responding to the scene of an accident along I-10 Westbound in Laplace, Louisiana, when an undocumented immigrant driving a passenger bus lost control of the bus and crashed into a nearby vehicle;

Whereas 3 firefighters were thrown over the highway guardrail from the impact of the vehicle, falling more than 30 feet into alligator-infested water;

Whereas fellow firefighters, State troopers, and at least 1 civilian quickly responded to rescue the 3 overthrown firefighters;

Whereas Chief Spencer Chauvin, a 36-year-old who served the St. John the Baptist Parish Fire Department for 12 years and was a beloved husband and father of 2, died in the crash;

Whereas 21-year-old Jermaine Starr and 33-year-old Vontarous Kelly, both of Moss Point, Mississippi, and who were passengers in the vehicle impacted by the bus, were also killed in the crash;